

From: ADAZA.COM
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/5/01 12:21pm
Subject: Monopolies harm industry first, then the consumer.

Dear Dept of Justice,
Microsoft is a successful company. It has achieved its monopolies through successful marketing strategies. Whether it has used illegal means to achieve and maintain its monopolies is NOT of primary importance to the industry, the consumer, or the economy.

What IS of primary importance to the industry, consumer, and economy, is that Microsoft has monopolies in a number of areas and is using those monopolies to extend into other areas. The technique of using a monopoly in one area to create a monopoly in another area has been understood for centuries. That monopolies eventually harm the industry, the consumer, and the economy has also been understood for centuries. For these reasons, every capitalistic country has developed antitrust law to protect the country from private monopolies.

The industries in which Microsoft enjoys monopolies have withered just as monopoly-dominated industries in the past have. Evidence:

1) Industry-wide development in personal computer operating systems has all but ceased. Apart from cosmetically, MS Windows is hardly different from what it was five years ago.

2) Industry-wide development in internet browsers has all but ceased. Apart from cosmetically, MS Internet Explorer is hardly different from what it was five years ago.

3) Industry-wide development in office productivity software has all but ceased. Apart from cosmetically, MS Office is hardly different from what it was five years ago. (And yet, Microsoft still charges \$500 for it. They do because they can.)

Yes, a lot of healthy, competitive, software development is occurring, even at Microsoft, but not in the areas Microsoft monopolizes.

Some argue: "But stable standards are good for an

industry. A lot of businesses do well developing products which depend on Microsoft's "standards".

IF it is determined that a standard operating system or office software is good for the industry, (which I personally do not believe but realise that there are certain short-term advantages) THEN those standards should not be privately owned and manipulated for the benefit of the standard's owner, in the way that Microsoft does. Many non-MS-owned standards do exist. They are under-utilized, in general, because Microsoft benefits more from creating its own versions of these standards and discriminantly selling their use.

If Microsoft has acted illegally, it should be punished in order to demonstrate to the world that Microsoft is not above the law of the United States.

However, separately from "punishment," Microsofts monopolies need to be broken in order to restore productive competitive growth to these industries and to ensure that more industries aren't similarly strangled.

The Microsoft monopoly situation is exactly the type of situation that US antitrust law was designed for. It should be used.

Sincerely
Drew Cover

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